Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 20, 22 and 24.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing superoxide damage to a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of

a. vector-based expression of a nucleic acid encoding the YggX polypeptide as set forth in gene ~~(SEQ ID NO: 11)~~ SEQ ID NO:11, wherein the cells are rendered more resistant to superoxide damage, wherein the cells comprise an oxygen-labile enzyme, and wherein there is no increased superoxide dismutase activity in the cells, ~~wherein the lack of increase in superoxide dismutase activity~~ is relative to the cells ~~not expressing the~~in the absence of the vector-based expression of YggX gene, and wherein the vector-based expression is in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

2.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing superoxide damage to a bacterial cell, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of vector-based expression of a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid encoding a YggX homolog, wherein the cells comprise an oxygen-labile enzyme, wherein the cells are rendered more resistant to superoxide damage and wherein there is no increased superoxide dismatuse activity in the cells relative to the cells ~~not expressing~~in the absence of the vector-based expression of the YggX homolog, wherein the YggX homolog comprises the amino acid sequence motif defined by SEQ ID NO:1 and wherein the vector-based expression is in a

~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell and examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing superoxide damage to a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of

a. vector-based expression of a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid encoding a YggX homolog, wherein the cells are rendered more resistant to superoxide damage, wherein the cells comprise an oxygen-labile enzyme, and wherein there is no increased superoxide dismatuse activity in cells relative to the cells ~~not expressing~~inthe absence of the vector-based expression of the YggX homolog, wherein the vector-based expression is in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell and wherein the YggX homolog is ~~obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *S. typhimurium, S. typhi, E. coli, Y. pestis, H. influenza, S. putrefaciens, P. aeruginosa, P. putida, N. gonorrhoeae, T. ferrooxidans, B. bronciseptica and X. fastidiosa*~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:34-45 and

b. examining the oxygen-lable enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing superoxide damage to a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, comprising the step of

a. vector-based expression of a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid encoding a YggX homolog, wherein the cells are rendered more resistant to superoxide damage, wherein the cells comprise an oxygen-labile enzyme, and wherein there is no increased superoxide dismatuse activity in the cells relative to the cells ~~not expressing~~in the absence of vector-based expression of the YggX homolog, wherein the vector-based expression is in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell and wherein the YggX homolog is ~~obtained from an organism~~

~~selected from the group consisting of *B. pertussis, B. parapert, B. bronchi, A. actin, P. multocida, H. influenzae, H. ducreyi, S. putrefasciens, V. cholerae, E. coli,* 0157_H7EDL933, 0157_H7, *S. para, S. enteritidis, S. dublin,* StyphiCT18, *S. typhimurium, K. pneumo, Y. perits, B. uchnera, X. fastidiosa, P. syring, P. putida, P. aeruginosa, N. gonorrhoeae, N. meningitB, N. meningA, B. mallei, B. pseudomallei, T. ferrooxidans, M. capsulatus and C. burneti*~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2-33 and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the resistance of ~~an eubacterial~~ a bacterial enzyme having an oxygen labile Fe-S cluster/center to oxidative damage, comprising

a. co-expressing the enzyme with YggX protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11 ~~(SEQ ID NO. 11)~~ in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, wherein the increased resistance is relative to the cells ~~not expressing~~in the absence of vector-based expression of the YggX protein and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the resistance of ~~an eubacterial~~ a bacterial enzyme having an oxygen labile Fe-S cluster/center to oxidative damage, comprising

a. co-expressing the enzyme with a homolog of ~~the~~ an YggX protein in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, wherein the increased resistance is relative to the cells ~~not~~

~~expressingin~~ the absence of vector-based expression of the YggX homolog, and wherein the homolog comprises the amino acid sequence motif defined by SEQ ID NO:1 and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the resistance of ~~an eubacterial~~ a bacterial enzyme having an oxygen labile Fe-S cluster/center to oxidative damage, comprising

a. co-expressing the enzyme with a homolog of the YggX protein in a bacterial ~~eubacterial~~ cell, wherein the increased resistance is relative to the cells ~~not expressing~~in the absence of vector-based expression of the YggX homolog, and wherein the homolog is ~~obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *S. typhimurium, S. typhi, E. coli, Y. pestis, H. influenza, S. putrefaciens, P. aeruginosa, P. putida, N. gonorrhoeae, T. ferrooxidans, B. broneiseptica and X. fastidiosa*~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:34-45 and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing the resistance of ~~an eubacterial~~ a bacterial enzyme having an oxygen labile Fe-S cluster/center to oxidative damage, comprising

a. co-expressing the enzyme with a homolog of the YggX protein in a ~~eubacterial~~ bacterial cell, wherein the increased resistance is relative to the cells ~~not~~

~~expressing~~in the absence of vector-expression of the YggX homolog, and wherein the homolog is ~~obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *B. pertusses, B. parapert, B. bronchi, A. actin, P. multocida, H. influenzae, H. duereyi, S. putrefaseiens, V. cholerae, E. coli,* 0157 H7EDL933, 0157 H7, *S. para, S. enteritidis, S. Dublin,* StyphiCT18, *S. typhimurium, K. pneumo, Y. pesits, B. uehnera, X. fastidiosa, P. syring, P. putida, P. aeruginosa, N. gonorrhoeae, N. meningitB, N. meningit A, B. mallei, B. pseudomallei, T.ferrooxidans, M. capsulatus and C. burneti.*~~ selected for the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:2-33 and

b. examining the oxygen-labile enzyme to determine the amount of oxidative damage.

26. (Cancelled)